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POPULATION COMMISSION

REPORT ON THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

(27 February–7 March 1991)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1991

SUPPLEMENT No. 7

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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SUMMARY

At its twenty-sixth session, the Population Commission (a) reviewed the action taken by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974, (b) reviewed programme implementation and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 and (c) considered the follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984. The Population Commission also met, in open-ended session, as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population (the report of the Preparatory Committee is contained in document E/1991/47).

The Commission held a general debate, during which members exchanged views and national experiences in the area of population. Information was exchanged related to demographic trends, population policies and programmes, the integration of population and development, and international cooperation and assistance. The general debate provided a useful context for a further review of current trends and policies at the regional and global levels, with a special discussion on age structure. The Commission did not recommend any action on that issue.

The Commission reviewed programme implementation and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993. The Commission also reviewed a report of the Secretary-General on requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations, which had been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/93. The Commission recommended that the Council adopt a draft resolution concerning the regular programme of work to be carried out during the biennium 1992-1993 by the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and by the Population Branch of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development.

The Commission considered the follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984. It reviewed the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population, the monitoring of multilateral population assistance and the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in implementing the World Population Plan of Action. As in previous sessions, the focus was on the coordination of population activities. The Commission did not recommend any action on the issue.

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Draft resolution

1. The Population Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Work programme in the field of population*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3344 (XXIX) and 3345 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, concerning the recommendations of the United Nations World Population Conference, and 39/228 of 18 December 1984 on the International Conference on Population,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, containing the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, as well as Assembly resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolutions 1981/28 of 6 May 1981 on the strengthening of actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Population Plan of Action, 1985/4 on the implications of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and 1985/6 on the status and role of women and population, both of 28 May 1985, 1986/7 of 21 May 1986 on population questions, 1989/89 on the population situation in the least developed countries, 1989/90 on incorporating population factors in the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, 1989/91 on the convening of an international meeting on population in 1994, 1989/92 on strengthening actions concerned with the fulfilment of the World Population Plan of Action and 1989/94 on United Nations support for African countries in the field of population, all of 26 July 1989,

Stressing the relationship between population and development as stated in General Assembly resolution 45/216 of 21 December 1990, namely the supportive role of the work programmes of the United Nations system in the field of population in the attainment of the goals and objectives set out in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation and in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and taking into consideration the specific needs of developing countries, as well as the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and the pursuit of goals of economic cooperation,

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* For the discussion, see paras. 132 to 135 below.

Recalling the report of the International Conference on Population, 1/ in which it was reaffirmed that the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action remained fully valid,

Reaffirming the important role of the Population Commission as the advisory body of the Economic and Social Council on population matters,

Taking note of the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-sixth session 2/ and the views expressed therein on the progress of work in the field of population and the proposed work programme,

1. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in implementing the work programme for the biennium 1992-1993 and the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

2. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to give high priority to the monitoring of world population trends and policies, including in-depth consideration of special topics, and to the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action;

(b) To continue work on the following:

(i) Studies on the interrelationships between population and development, giving particular attention to studies promoting the integration of population factors into development planning, including issues related to the environment, the role of women and the development of human resources;

(ii) Studies on the interrelationship between the status and role of women and population;

(iii) Comparative analysis of population policies, including analysis of the results of the Seventh Population Inquiry among Governments;

(iv) Biennial revisions of estimates and projections of national, urban, rural and city populations, including demographic indicators and age structure;

(v) Analysis of mortality: adult mortality, including maternal mortality, as well as infant and child mortality;

(vi) Studies on reproductive behaviour and on family planning and its demographic impact;

1/ Report of the International Conference on Population, 1984, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda), chap. I, sect. B.

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 7 (E/1991/27).

(vii) Studies to measure and understand changes in population distribution, especially internal migration and urbanization in developing countries, and international migration;

(viii) Dissemination of population information and further strengthening of the Population Information Network at the regional and global levels;

(c) To coordinate substantive preparatory work for the 1994 International Meeting on Population;

(d) To continue to work closely with Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in the implementation of programmes;

(e) To further improve communication and coordination between the Population Division of the Secretariat, the regional commissions and Governments, particularly in order to prepare the most accurate population estimates and projections possible, an activity in which the Population Division should play a leading role;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To give high priority to strengthening multilateral technical cooperation programmes in the field of population, including the utilization of technical cooperation among developing countries, as necessary, in the following areas:

(i) Training in demography and matters related to population and development, including courses to upgrade knowledge and skills, particularly in the application of microcomputers for training and related research;

(ii) Evaluation and analysis of population data from population censuses and demographic surveys through utilization of national expertise, use of computer technology and dissemination and utilization of the results;

(iii) Formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes on the basis of national development plans, with special attention to cultural and socio-economic conditions at the national and subnational levels;

(iv) Integration of population variables in planning for sustainable development at the national, subnational and sectoral levels, including the use of demographic-economic models and related microcomputer software;

(v) Further development of training materials and quantitative methodologies for the identification and treatment of women's issues in population and development;

(b) To further strengthen multilateral technical cooperation in order to meet the urgent need to train an adequate number of population specialists over the next five years and to stimulate female enrolment in training courses;

(c) Subject to the availability of funds, to conduct study of the needs of developing countries for skilled human resources in the population field and measures required to meet those needs;

4. Re-emphasizes the importance of maintaining the scope, effectiveness and efficiency of the global population programme and of continuing to strengthen coordination and collaboration among the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the regional commissions, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the planning and execution of their population programmes, as well as the need for organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen coordination and collaboration with Member States, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental and national organizations, as appropriate.

B. Draft decision

2. The Population Commission also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission

The Economic and Social Council approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974:

   (a) General debate on national experience in population matters;

   (b) Monitoring of world population trends and policies, including the in-depth consideration of a selected topic;

   (c) Review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action.

Documentation

Concise report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, including the in-depth consideration of a selected topic (Council decision 87 (LVIII))

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action

4. The 1994 International Meeting on Population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the 1994 International Meeting on Population

5. Programme questions:

(a) Programme performance and implementation;

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress of work in the field of population: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, 1991-1992

Report of the Secretary-General on progress of work in the field of population: Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, 1991-1992

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work in the field of population for the biennium 1994-1995

6. Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984.

Documentation

Concise report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, including the in-depth consideration of a selected topic (Council decision 87 (LVIII))

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the activities of the Fund

Relevant parts of the reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions dealing with the United Nations Population Fund

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action

7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-seventh session.

Chapter II

ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974

3. The Population Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 444th and 445th meetings, on 27 February 1991. It had before it the concise report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure (E/CN.9/1991/2).

4. The Population Commission paid tribute to two former members, Alfred Sauvy and Jean Bourgeois-Pichat, who had passed away since the twenty-fifth session of the Commission. Both Mr. Sauvy and Mr. Bourgeois-Pichat had headed the delegation of France and had served the Population Commission with distinction since its first session in 1947.

A. General debate on national experience in population matters

5. At its twenty-fifth session, the Population Commission concluded that it would be useful to make provision in its agenda for a general debate during which members would be able to exchange views and national experience in the area of population. That conclusion was approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1989/170.

6. It was noted that such general debate was particularly important given the progress and obstacles encountered in fulfilling the objectives, goals and recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action, and the forthcoming discussions on the possibility of holding an intergovernmental conference on population in 1994.

7. In the general debate on national experience in population matters, many delegations reported on the demographic situation in their respective countries and provided information on demographic trends, population policies and programmes, the integration of population and development, and international cooperation and assistance. Referring to the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations (A/C.2/44/6, annex), some delegations noted that population has been integrated as a variable in the economic and social development planning of their respective countries. The importance of sharing national experiences was noted.

8. Many delegations noted that population ageing had become an extremely important issue in their countries. The dramatic growth and the sheer magnitude of the elderly population raised a number of issues in such areas as income, consumption, savings, social security schemes, health-care systems, labour-force participation, mobility and productivity. In addition, it was mentioned that problems of ageing were not limited to the aged but also affected other population age groups, families and households. A number of developing countries were already confronting issues associated with ageing, and would in future experience an unprecedentedly rapid ageing of their populations.

9. A number of delegations spoke of the problem of international migration and its impact on both sending and receiving countries. It was noted that more attention should be given to the causes of migration as a means of understanding the flow. Delegations noted the importance of studies on refugees and asylum-seekers, especially in less developed countries; international migration from less developed countries to more developed countries; and the demographic, social, economic and political impact of international migration, in both countries of origin and destination.

10. The strengthening of family-planning programmes and other reproductive health services continued to be of high priority to many Governments as a means of enabling couples to achieve the desired number and spacing of their children, as an integral part of the effort to improve maternal and child health and, in many cases, as a factor contributing to the attainment of the goal of sustainable development. Delegations reaffirmed the necessity of respecting both human rights and responsibilities in that area. Several delegations mentioned that, although considerable progress had been made during the past two decades in extending and strengthening family-planning services and the associated provision of population information, education and communications, much remained to be done. It was noted that underserved populations could be found in some of the more developed countries as well as in many developing countries. The need for substantially strengthened international, multilateral and bilateral assistance in that area was therefore seen as a high priority.

11. Women's status and its relationship to family policy, fertility, the labour force and broader issues of social and economic development were mentioned by many delegations, which reported a variety of policies, programmes and institutional arrangements made in order to ensure that women were taken into account at all stages of population planning and population programmes.

12. Several delegations described actions taken to lower mortality, in particular through maternal and child health programmes, which had in some cases been integrated with family-planning services. Several delegations pointed to an emerging need to give more attention to the measurement and the problems of adult mortality, particularly considering the likely increase in the burden of chronic and debilitating diseases and the potential effect of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Some delegations suggested further studies on adult mortality levels and trends by causes of death.

13. The growing global impact of AIDS had remained of pressing concern to many Governments, including those that had not as yet experienced a large direct impact on their own populations. It has been necessary, inter alia, to continue to improve the demographic estimates of the current and projected impact of the AIDS crisis and to improve the collection and analysis of data needed to understand the transmission and spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

14. The improvement of statistics on population was of concern to developing and developed countries alike. In the latter countries, the traditional

sources of statistical data often did not fully reflect emerging social trends, such as changes in patterns of family formation, and were inadequate for investigating the social and economic causes and consequences of population trends. Several delegations described measures taken to improve population statistics. In many developing countries there remained, in addition, a great need to improve the vital statistics systems and the technical capacity for conducting and especially evaluating and analysing population censuses and surveys.

15. Several delegations noted that considerable diversity of demographic, social and economic situations existed within their countries and described approaches by their Government to tailor population policies to local conditions and to interrelate them with the achievement of sustainable development. Problems concerning distribution of the population, both geographically and demographically, and problems of natural resources and the environment were viewed as being intertwined, as both cause and effect. It was important for Governments to address population, development and environmental concerns in an integrated manner, in all appropriate forums.

16. Delegations noted that there was also a widening diversity of demographic situations in the world, largely linked to social and economic progress. Some developing countries have rapidly moved through the first stages of demographic transition and others have reached an advanced stage of that transition. However, some were still in a situation of pre-transition and have even seen an increase in fertility. Among the industrialized countries, nearly all were subjected to a combination of fertility, mortality and migration, which could eventually lead to a negative rate of population growth.

17. Many delegations noted that, although certain population issues required action primarily at the national or subnational level, others were partly determined by circumstances, events and policies at the international or global level. It was therefore essential to encourage increased coordination and cooperation at the global, interregional and regional levels. In that respect, many delegations expressed their appreciation to the United Nations for its role in fostering coordination and cooperation. The important role of non-governmental organizations at the local, national and international levels was also stressed. However, a great need remained for technical assistance and training and for operational support of population policies and programmes.

B. Monitoring of population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure

18. Many delegations welcomed the special discussion on age structure included in the concise report on the monitoring of world population trends and policies (E/CN.9/1991/2) and remarked on the high quality of the report. However, they expressed regret that the document had not been made available earlier. Appreciation was expressed for the increased use of graphical presentation, which was in response to suggestions made by the Population Commission at its twenty-fifth session. Other suggestions by the Commission were also reflected in the report, such as attention to the situation in the least developed countries. The Commission expressed appreciation for the extensive discussion of population ageing and international migration provided

in the background document (ESA/P/WP.114). Delegations suggested that the report receive wide distribution, preferably by issuing it in several languages.

19. A number of delegations commented on the special topic of age structure, which had been recommended by the Population Commission at its twenty-fifth session. They expressed their appreciation for that chapter and observed that the topic was of great concern to both developing and developed countries. They noted that, even though the proportion of people over 65 years of age was still much smaller in developing than in developed countries, one half of the world's elderly population were living in developing countries. That percentage was projected to increase in the future. It was noted that the issues of ageing confronting the developed countries today would be the problems confronting developing countries tomorrow.

20. Because of the heterogeneous composition of the elderly populations, it was suggested that, in future, work should distinguish between the old and the very old populations. It was also noted that the apparent size of the elderly population was sensitive to the choice of a particular number of years as the lower age limit for the definition of "elderly" - whether 60 years or 65 years. It was agreed that, both in tabulation and in analysis, effort should be made to determine and use more detailed age classifications for the elderly. Several delegations stressed that the United Nations in its future work programme should give more emphasis to the economic and social consequences of population ageing. However, it was also recognized that the monitoring report must remain uncomplicated in order to make it accessible to a broad audience.

21. Delegations noted that the issue of age structure was not one of population ageing alone. Rapid population growth in some developing countries was leading to a substantially greater growth among the population in younger age groups, and it was the problems and challenges of a youthful population that were acute.

22. One delegation drew attention to the need to reconsider regional classifications as a consequence of the recent changes in political boundaries.

23. Several delegations made suggestions for future special topics in subsequent reports on the monitoring of population trends and policies. A number of delegations mentioned international migration; others suggested internal migration and urbanization, fertility and family planning, and the social, cultural and economic context of persistent high fertility in sub-Saharan Africa.

Chapter III

THE 1994 INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON POPULATION

24. In resolution 1989/91, the Economic and Social Council decided, in principle, to convene in 1994, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international meeting on population. It also decided to designate the Population Commission, meeting in open-ended session, with the participation of any Member of the United Nations that was not a member of the Commission and of any other State, as the preparatory committee for the international meeting on population. It requested the Population Commission to consider at its twenty-sixth session and to report to the Council on the following matters: (a) the further elaboration and refinement of the objectives of the international meeting on population; (b) the issues to be discussed at the meeting; (c) the nature of the preparatory work for the meeting; and (d) the assignment of responsibilities for the preparation of the meeting to organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

25. The Population Commission met as the Preparatory Committee from 4 to 8 March 1991. The report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session is presented in document E/1991/47.

Chapter IV

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

26. The Population Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 446th to 448th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work in the field of population, 1989-1990: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/1991/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work in the field of population, 1989-1990: technical cooperation activities in population of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (E/CN.9/1991/3/Add.1);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work in the field of population for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/CN.9/1991/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations (E/CN.9/1991/5).

27. The summary reports and recommendations of the following meetings were made available to the Commission: Expert Group Meeting on International Migration Policies and the Status of Female Migrants, San Miniato, Italy, 27-30 March 1990 (ESA/P/WP.111); Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Policies in Mega-cities, Tokyo, 22-26 October 1990 (ESA/P/WP.112); International Conference on the Ageing Family, Kitakyushu, 15-19 October 1990 (ESA/P/WP.113); meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Population Information Network (POPIN), New York, 11-14 June 1990 (ESA/P/WP.115); and Symposium on Integrating Population Variables into Development Planning, Riga, 4-8 December 1989 (ESA/P/WP.117). Also made available to the Commission was a report entitled "The global Population Information Network (POPIN): historical perspective and recommendations for the future" (ESA/P/WP.116) and the report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), New York, 6 to 8 June 1990 (ACC/1990/PG/4).

28. In its general debate on programme questions, the Commission was provided with information concerning the new structural organization of the population programme within the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the use of new categories to classify and report outputs. The Commission was also notified that work had already begun in preparation for the 1994 International Meeting on Population, including the initial planning of preparatory expert group meetings to be organized, subject to the approval of the Commission acting as the Preparatory Committee (see E/CONF.84/PC/2).

A. Programme performance and implementation

1. Analysis of demographic variables at the world level

29. The Commission noted with satisfaction the publication of the Step-by-Step Guide to the Estimation of Child Mortality 3/ and its growing use in developing countries. Delegations commended the preparation of computer programs on diskette to facilitate the dissemination and use of estimation techniques. They noted that the methods described in manuals prepared by the Population Division had contributed to improving the demographic estimates used in development planning.

30. The Commission was informed that a study entitled Child Mortality in Developing Countries: Socio-economic Differentials, Trends and Implications 4/ had been completed and that two other studies focusing on child mortality were under way: one on the impact of changes in reproductive behaviour on child survival and another documenting the pace of mortality change since 1960. The Commission endorsed such activities and added that trends and patterns of adult mortality deserved more attention. In particular, a study of mortality at older ages, including trends in causes of death, was suggested.

31. The Commission took note of the progress made in organizing the Expert Group Meeting on the Feminization of Internal Migration and of the completion of a project on the estimation of demographic components of urban growth. Estimates of rural-to-urban migration by sex resulting from that project were being used to prepare a paper for the meeting dealing with female internal migration. While endorsing that activity, the Commission noted that more attention should also be given to the study of other demographic, economic and social aspects of internal migration.

32. The Commission was informed that a database on urban structure, by city size, on the basis of census information had been completed for all Latin American countries. In addition, the expansion and computerization of the data bank on international migration had continued. As suggested by some delegations, the data bank was being used to explore various aspects of international migration such as, for instance, trends in South-to-North migration. The Commission noted with satisfaction that a paper on that topic had been prepared and would be published in a forthcoming issue of the Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

33. The Commission endorsed the activities carried out in the area of international migration, including the publication of the chart entitled World Migrant Populations: The Foreign-born 5/ and the Expert Group Meeting on International Migration Policies and the Status of Female Migrants.

3/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.9.

4/ To be issued as a United Nations publication.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.7A.

Delegations emphasized the growing importance of international migration world wide and the need for reliable information on levels and trends of international migration. Continued cooperation between the Population Division and other international organizations working in the field of migration was welcomed. Consideration of the interplay between population growth, labour needs, economic development and international migration was suggested. The need to focus on all types of internal and international migration was emphasized.

34. The Commission was informed that the project on adolescent fertility was completed in 1989 with the publication of the study entitled Adolescent Reproductive Behaviour: Evidence from Developing Countries. 6/ The study was actually the second part of the project. The first part, which was devoted to developed countries, was published in 1988. By-products included an extensive bibliography published as a working paper and also on microfiche. The study dealt with fertility levels and trends in the ages of adolescence, sexual activity, contraceptive practice, pregnancy and abortion, and the health consequences of early child-bearing. The project was carried out with the collaboration of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and with the financial support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

35. In the area of family planning and its demographic impact, the study on Levels and Trends of Contraceptive Use as Assessed in 1988 7/ was also published in 1989. It provided information on contraceptive use by type of method for all countries for which information was available. The report also gave estimates of the increase in contraceptive practice that would be needed to produce the decline in fertility as implied in the United Nations projections. With financial support from UNFPA, the data included in the report have since been entered in a family-planning data bank, which would be made available in machine-readable form.

36. It was noted that the papers of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Measuring the Dynamics of Contraceptive Use, held at New York in December 1988, had been published under the title Measuring the Dynamics of Contraceptive Use (ST/ESA/SER.R/106). Follow-up activities to that project included preparation of software to facilitate application of the techniques discussed in the publication.

37. The Population Division had also completed a study on patterns of marriage among women and men in various parts of the world and issued a publication entitled Patterns of First Marriage: Timing and Prevalence (ST/ESA/SER.R/111), which provided a global review of the socio-cultural factors involved. The publication was the second part of the study on first marriage carried out by the Population Division.

6/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.10.

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.4.

38. Also concluded during the biennium 1988-1989 was a study on the impact of differentials in socio-economic factors on fertility levels in 32 developing countries. The findings were published in 1990 in an article entitled "Correlates of fertility in selected developing countries" in the Population Bulletin of the United Nations, No. 28. 8/

39. The Commission was informed that a number of studies in the general area of the condition of women and population dynamics, with a focus on fertility, were in progress. In one study, an analysis was undertaken of women's marital and economic status in relation to the living arrangements of women and their children. Work was also under way on a study of the changing relationships between fertility and women's education and labour force participation in developing countries. The project included a few country case-studies focusing on fertility in relation to aspects of women's status, such as channels through which education might affect fertility and how events in women's life course might affect fertility transition. Two studies, on India and Mexico, respectively, were currently being carried out.

40. Concerning the interrelationship between fertility and mortality, work was in progress, with UNFPA support, on a small number of country case-studies dealing with the implications for fertility of improved child survival. The methodological framework for the project was developed with the help of a group of experts. The case-studies pertained to Ecuador, Indonesia and a country in Africa.

41. The Commission also noted that the Population Division was currently undertaking a study of fertility behaviour in low-fertility settings, namely, the developed countries and the low-fertility countries of East Asia. The study covered the patterns of decline, changes in age-patterns of fertility and in age-parity timing and, through comparative analysis, changes in the determinants of fertility as well.

2. World population projections

42. The Commission expressed great satisfaction that the 1990 revision of the twelfth round of global estimates and projections of populations had been completed and that the results had been published in the United Nations World Population Chart 1990, 9/ World Population Prospects 1990 10/ and The Sex and Age Distributions of Populations: The 1990 Revision. 11/ Prior to publication, the results were disseminated in the form of computer output and on magnetic media. The Commission noted that for the first time the revision contained a description of data sources and demographic methods used for

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8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.3.

9/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.4/Rev.

10/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.XIII.4

11/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.33.

each country, and that a comparison with the 1988 revision was included. The Commission was informed that the 1992 revision was under way. Some delegations suggested that, for future revisions, the period of projections be extended to 2050.

43. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the completion of the 1990 revision of global estimates and projections of urban and rural populations and populations of large urban agglomerations with 1 million inhabitants and over. It noted that the results had already been made available to users. It expressed its appreciation in particular for the publication, for the first time, of the United Nations Urban Agglomeration Chart 1990. 12/ It noted that the publication World Urbanization Prospects 1990 13/ would become available around mid-1991.

44. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the results of the 1990 revision were more readily available to users with the addition of timely new wall charts and microcomputer diskettes as well as through ad hoc information services. The publication was an improved version of the United Nations Population Projection Computer Program (ST/ESA/SER.R/92).

45. The Commission took note of the publication in 1989 of the Review of Recent National Demographic Target-setting. 14/

46. The Commission noted with appreciation that the manuscript on subnational population projections was now undergoing final editing. The publication had been recast to concentrate on the most difficult problem facing those who wish to undertake subnational population projections; that is, the estimation of baseline migration, by sex and age, for subnational areas.

47. The Commission was informed that a new revision of the long-range projections of population beyond the year 2050 was currently under way. It discussed the pros and cons of such long-range projections within the context of other supplementary projections that might be useful.

48. The Commission expressed regret that lack of resources had not allowed the resumption of estimates and projections of households and families, but took note of related work in that area within other subprogrammes and by the Statistical Office.

3. Population policy and socio-economic development

49. The Commission noted with satisfaction that, in the area of population policy, a great deal of research and work had been completed during the past few years. The work encompassed (a) comparative studies of new population

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12/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.6.

13/ To be issued as a United Nations publication.

14/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.5.

policy issues at the global level; (b) national population policies; and (c) the population policy data bank.

50. Concerning the comparative studies, the Commission was informed that research had continued on policy issues resulting from the rapid population growth of the largest metropolitan areas in developing countries. During the past two years, mega-city studies had been issued for Jakarta, Cairo and Mexico City, bringing the total number of mega-city reports issued to 12.

51. In addition, the Commission noted with satisfaction that the Population Division, in cooperation with the United Nations University, had organized a symposium entitled "Mega-cities and the future: population growth and policy responses", which was held at Tokyo in October 1990.

52. Regarding national population policies, the Commission noted with satisfaction that the three-volume series, World Population Policies, 15/ had been completed and that a professional journal for librarians had included it in its 1990 list of outstanding academic books. Additional attention to the experiences of countries in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies was the focus of the series entitled Case Studies in Population Policy, the most recent of which were on France (ST/ESA/SER.R/94) and Haiti (ST/ESA/SER.R/95).

53. The Commission noted that in April 1989, the Expert Group Meeting on Population and Human Rights was organized by the Population Division in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

54. The Commission also noted that a project on the status of women and population policies, with a focus on policies relating to reproductive health, was initiated in 1990 with the financial support of UNFPA.

55. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the population policy data bank had been expanded and considerably strengthened since its twenty-fifth session. It noted that the second edition of the report and computer diskette entitled Global Population Policy Database (ST/ESA/SER.R/99) was issued in 1990.

56. The Commission also noted that the Results of the Sixth United Nations Population Inquiry among Governments (ST/ESA/SER.R/104) had been published.

57. The Commission noted with appreciation that the report, recommendations and papers of the 1988 Expert Group Meeting on the International Transmission of Population Policy Experience, which was organized jointly by the Population Division and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), had recently been published in a volume entitled International Transmission of Population Policy Experience (ST/ESA/SER.R/108), which was being widely distributed. In response to a recommendation made at that

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15/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.87.XIII.4, E.89.XIII.3, E.90.XIII.2.

Meeting, the Population Division had recently issued a publication entitled Trends in Population Policy, 16/ which provided for the first time longitudinal national policy data for 170 countries for seven points in time during the period 1974-1989.

58. The Commission noted that two publications had been produced as a follow-up to the project on socio-economic development and fertility decline. The Commission also noted that the reports of case-studies on the socio-economic consequences of population ageing in Argentina, Morocco and the State of Kerala, India, had been completed and submitted for publication.

59. The Commission noted that the second edition of Stable Populations Corresponding to the New United Nations Model Life Tables for Developing Countries (ST/ESA/SER.R/47), had been published under the new title Stable Population Age Distributions (ST/ESA/SER.R/98). The Commission suggested that it would be useful to ascertain the impact that the dissemination of such methods would have on the planning process. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Population Division had upgraded the MORTPAK and MORTPAK-LITE software packages, making them more useful for planning by including a model for making single-year projections. It noted that MORTPAK-LITE had an improved user interface. It also noted that a revised manual for the upgraded versions of MORTPAK and MORTPAK-LITE had been published. 17/

60. Recognizing the interrelated nature of trends in family structure and trends in the ageing of populations, the Commission expressed its satisfaction that the Population Division, with the support of the municipal government of Kitakyushu, Japan, had organized an International Conference on Ageing Populations in the Context of the Family. The Commission stressed the importance of considering family issues when analysing the impact of demographic trends, including ageing.

61. The Commission noted with satisfaction that volume I of the manual entitled Projection Methods for Integrating Population Variables into Development Planning had been prepared in three modules (ST/ESA/SER.R/90 and Add.1 and 2), the first two of which had been published. The third module was in press. The Commission stressed the importance of expediting the finalization and publication of volume II of the manual, dealing with sectoral planning.

62. The Commission noted that reports on experiences of integrating population variables into development planning in India, Mexico, Thailand and Turkey had been finalized for publication.

63. The Commission was informed that with the financial support of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Population Division, in collaboration with the Population Branch of the Department of

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16/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.13.

17/ MORTPAK and MORTPAK-LITE Upgrades, Version 3.0 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.D.

Technical Cooperation for Development, the Latvian State University and the Programme in Population and Development Planning at Moscow State University, organized an International Symposium on Population and Development Planning, which was held at Riga in 1989.

64. The Commission noted that the Population Division had prepared and disseminated in diskette form version 1.0 of a microcomputer-oriented database on population, resources, environment and development called PREDBANK. The database included demographic and economic variables and could be used with several widely available software packages. The user's manual was contained in an accompanying diskette.

4. Monitoring, review and appraisal, coordination and dissemination of population information

65. The monitoring of world population trends and policies and the review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action are discussed in chapter II.

66. The Population Commission noted with satisfaction that the Population Division and the WHO Global Programme on AIDS had jointly organized a workshop on modelling the demographic impact of AIDS in pattern II countries: that is, countries where most cases of AIDS occur through heterosexual transmission and through mother-to-infant transmission. Among the purposes of the Workshop were to examine the differences among various modelling approaches and learn to what extent such modelling exercises could provide useful information on the pandemic's potential medium- and long-term demographic effects. The findings indicated that (a) a projected demographic impact depended mainly on assumed rates of ineffectivity and patterns of sexual behaviour, the two variables about which there had been the least knowledge; and (b) a general demographic impact at the national level might not be as great as hypothesized, although possibly very extensive in certain capital cities or other urban areas where infection was pervasive. The proceedings of the Workshop were in press and would be issued before the end of 1991. The Commission was pleased to learn that the Population Division was initiating a new project on national AIDS policies. The Commission noted that such work was important for the biennial revision of global population estimates and projections.

67. The Population Commission noted with satisfaction that in the overall dissemination programme of the Population Division, 33 major publications were issued during the biennium 1989-1990, including four issues of the Population Bulletin and of the Population Newsletter. Three wall charts, which appeared to be a useful format for bringing population information to wide audiences quickly and at a comparatively low cost, had been published. It was reported that the demand for the publications remained strong, that there had been an overall reduction in publication time and that changes in appearance and format of some series had made the publications more attractive to a wider audience. Also, more of the Population Division's outputs had been made available in a computer-usable format. As an effort to enhance dissemination, the standard practice of issuing a press release upon the issue of a new publication had been adopted.

68. The Commission was pleased to learn that during the past two years, the substantive activities of the global Population Information Network (POPIN) continued to be carried out at a comparatively routine level. The activities included (a) an exhibit of population information resources at the 1989 General Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, in New Delhi; (b) organization and servicing of the POPIN Working Group on the Management of the POPIN Thesaurus in late 1989, under the leadership of the Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED); (c) organization and servicing of the global POPIN Coordinating Committee Meeting, which took place in New York in mid-1990; (d) participation in the POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee meeting at Accra in 1990 and in the International Seminar on Population Information convened by the China Population Information and Research Centre at Beijing in 1990. An overall review of POPIN activities was prepared by a consultant and made available to the Commission in working paper ESA/P/WP.116.

69. With respect to the management of global POPIN, as a result of the further review of the POPIN project, it was agreed between the Population Division and UNFPA that the responsibility for global POPIN would remain with the Population Division with the support of UNFPA. The Commission expressed the hope that extrabudgetary resources would be made available to the Population Division to enable global POPIN to carry out its activities effectively.

5. Technical cooperation

70. The Commission was informed of the technical cooperation activities in population undertaken by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development during 1988-1990 in the field of training in demography and population and development, evaluation and analysis of basic population data and population policy and development planning. The Commission expressed its support for those activities and noted with satisfaction that the development of national capabilities had remained the main objective of technical cooperation in those fields. In that regard, the Commission noted that a number of countries, particularly but by no means exclusively in the African region, stood to benefit a great deal from that work, since human resources development in the population field remained a key concern.

71. Developing further expertise in the area of population and development was particularly recommended by the Commission, as was careful consideration of the nature of the training required and the capability of institutions to provide it prior to finalizing decisions on actual training venues.

72. The Commission noted that an increase in national expertise during the biennium had reduced the dependence on international experts in project implementation in developing countries. It also noted, however, a decline in the proportion of women in training programmes. Therefore, while it welcomed the increased emphasis placed on the further involvement of women in all population activities, it also urged Governments and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development to continue to ensure women's equal access to all relevant professional opportunities, particularly in training. It was pointed out that, while nominations of women candidates for short-term

training activities had progressively increased, that had not happened with regard to long-term training, the reasons for which were unclear.

73. The Commission welcomed the increased emphasis by Governments on exchanging experiences and technical cooperation among developing countries in training. It noted the need expressed by most Governments of developing countries for training of more population specialists to attend to the growing needs in population policy formulation and integration of population variables into development planning.

74. The Commission took note of the report on requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations (E/CN.9/1991/5) and recommended that further in-depth research of that kind be undertaken, if possible. Such a study should include a larger number of countries, a broader scope of inquiry and, in particular, some focus on the question of how many population specialists were actually continuing to work in their areas of training. That would cast new light on the continuing problem of "brain drain" and also help to quantify just how well self-reliance in that area has developed.

75. The Commission noted with satisfaction the collaboration between the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, Governments and national institutions in giving short-term specialized training to nationals of developing countries.

76. The Commission expressed support for the increasing use made of national consultants and experts in the analysis of population and census data and the dissemination of the results through pre-census and post-census seminars and publication of reports. The Commission noted the extensive use made of microcomputers in census analysis for which a large number of software packages had continued to be distributed through the Department's software development project.

77. The Commission noted that many developing countries had formulated population policies and developed programmes to integrate population variables into development planning. The Commission was informed of the extensive use made of techniques developed by the United Nations for integrating population factors into development planning. It noted in that regard that the Department had developed an integrated macro-simulation model for population policy formulation and integration of population factors into development, and a women-in-development model to analyse the impact of women's productive role in socio-economic development. The Commission was informed that the Department had organized training seminars in a number of developing countries on the application of those models. The Commission urged the Department to increase its efforts in that area, to include demographic impacts on the environment and the use of microcomputer technology to model population and development planning as well as women in development interrelationships.

78. The Commission was informed that the Department had published a report on the in-depth analysis of United Nations fellowships and another report on the Consultative Meeting on Substantive Issues of Demographic Training in its programme of analysis and evaluation of experiences in technical cooperation in demographic training and research. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the quality of the technical assistance provided to the developing

countries, and urged the Department to continue its excellent cooperation in that regard with Governments and national institutions.

79. The Commission was also advised that the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development continued to offer cooperation to UNFPA in providing the services of technical advisers for the UNFPA Basic Needs Assessment missions, as well as in project formulations and evaluations.

6. Demographic and social statistics

80. The Commission was informed of the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in demographic and social statistics, covering three major components: (a) population census preparations and methodological developments; (b) international data collection, compilation and dissemination; and (c) technical cooperation activities. It expressed satisfaction with the extensive census preparations (such as regional workshops) and publications for assistance to countries. Recent publications included Supplementary Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses; Manual on Population Census Data Processing Using Microcomputers and the Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods. The Commission was informed that 128 countries had already conducted a population census within the 1990 round of censuses and 50 more countries plan to hold a census in 1991.

81. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the publications of the annual Demographic Yearbook and of the quarterly Population and Vital Statistics Report had continued on a regular basis and had included, as special topics, households and families, and international migration. It was informed of the three-year project funded by UNFPA to develop a Demographic Yearbook database and to bring out a special supplement on population ageing.

82. Work in social statistics included, inter alia, a wall chart on early child development and learning achievement, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in the context of the World Summit for Children held in September 1990, another wall chart on the situation of women in 1990 and the first issue of the Disability Statistics Compendium.

83. In the area of technical cooperation, the Statistical Office had provided substantive support to about 180 projects executed by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development over the past five years in the areas of population and housing censuses and surveys, civil registration and vital statistics, special population groups, women etc. Most of those projects had been funded by UNFPA. The Commission welcomed the International Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, which was designed to encourage countries to take action to remove the constraints and problems that impeded the development of the national civil registration and vital statistics systems.

84. The Commission welcomed the preparation of population and housing census handbooks and other reports and urged that they be published well in advance of the next census round and distributed widely to countries. The Commission

noted with satisfaction the close collaboration among the various offices of the United Nations system, in particular between the Statistical Office and the Population Division in the area of demographic and social statistics.

B. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993

1. Analysis of demographic variables at the world level

85. The Commission was informed that the study on the impact of changes in reproductive behaviour on child survival had been initiated and was expected to be completed during the biennium 1992-1993. A study on the relationship between the status of women and child survival would also be undertaken during that period, provided sufficient resources became available.

86. With respect to internal migration and urbanization, the Commission noted with satisfaction that the proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on the Feminization of Internal Migration, scheduled to take place in October 1991, would be published during the biennium. In addition, a manual on methods to measure internal migration would be published, provided extrabudgetary resources could be secured.

87. The Commission also noted with satisfaction that the expansion and computerization of the data bank on international migration would continue. Given the increasing importance of forced migration, the Commission expressed support for a proposed project focusing on demographic and other closely interrelated aspects of refugees, displaced persons and other forced population movements.

88. The Commission noted that for the biennium 1992-1993, work in the area of women's status in relation to fertility would include the completion of several comparative and country case-studies. The project on the impact of the improvement of child survival on fertility was expected to be completed during the biennium.

89. The Commission noted with satisfaction the plans for further studies in the area of fertility and family planning. An updated review of patterns of contraceptive use world wide was planned. The data underlying the publication would be made available on diskette. Contingent on extrabudgetary resources, studies of contraceptive use in relation to breast-feeding and of patterns and trends of birth-spacing would be initiated during the biennium. In addition, the Division planned to begin work towards a comprehensive global review of trends in the level and age pattern of fertility.

2. World population projections

90. Emphasizing the great demand for recurrent updating of the global estimates and projections of populations, the Commission recommended that preparation of estimates and projections of populations by country, urban and rural populations and urban agglomerations be continued with the same two-year periodicity.

91. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the 1992 revision would provide age and sex distributions and demographic indicators for countries with 200,000 inhabitants and more, that the new base date would be 1990 and that the projection range for urban agglomerations would be extended to 2010. Noting that the year 2025 was only 35 years away, the Commission recommended that future projections extend the horizon to 2050, starting with the 1994 revision.

92. The Commission suggested that, in addition to its regular set of projections, the Population Division consider supplementary illustrative projections, such as different mortality assumptions, instant replacement-level fertility assumptions or long-range projections.

93. Recognizing the importance and the complexity of urban-rural projections, the Commission requested the Population Division to explore the possibility of presenting results according to sex and age.

94. The Commission urged that efforts be made to obtain resources to allow the development of a user-friendly interface for the United Nations Population Projection Program (ABACUS), and also to further expand widespread dissemination of results from estimates and projections published by the Population Division.

95. The Commission emphasized the importance of updating the joint publication on population and sectoral estimates and projections undertaken by the Population Division, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNESCO. It strongly recommended that the work of the ACC Ad Hoc Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections continue in that direction.

3. Population policy and socio-economic development

96. The Commission was informed that with regard to comparative studies, work on the series Population Growth and Policies in Mega-Cities would be continued, and that reports on Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires were planned. In addition to the series on mega-cities, a project funded by UNFPA would look at the demographic and policy aspects relating to approximately 100 of the world's largest urban agglomerations. The compiled data and report from the project were expected to provide useful information to planners and policy makers on the various policy interventions that had been undertaken at the national and local levels.

97. The Commission noted with satisfaction that beginning in 1990, with the financial support of UNFPA, a project was begun on the status of women and population policies, focusing on policies relating to reproductive health. The objective of the project was to investigate national population policies relating to abortion, contraception, sterilization and maternal health.

98. The Commission was informed that international migration policies were another area expected to receive attention in the coming biennium. Building on the Population Division's 1982 review of international migration policies, the Population Division intended to prepare individual country summaries describing the important dimensions of international migration policies,

including those relating to immigration, emigration, family reunification, labour migration, return migration, refugees and asylum-seekers.

99. The Commission was also informed that another project planned for the next biennium was a study of mortality policies, with a special focus on national policies concerning AIDS. A report succinctly summarizing national population policies addressing that serious health threat would benefit from the cooperation of WHO and information obtained from the Sixth United Nations Population Inquiry, as well as more recent national documents, articles and newspaper clippings.

100. The Commission was also informed of two additional activities, the Seventh United Nations Population Inquiry among Governments and the global population database. The Seventh Population Inquiry was expected to be sent to Governments in early 1992. The third edition of the global policy database, scheduled to be completed by the end of 1991, should be issued in 1992. The remarks provided by members of the Commission regarding their national population policy experiences would be helpful in updating the population policy database. Every effort would be taken to ensure that reported population policies take into account the overall context of social and economic development policies.

101. The Commission encouraged further work on interrelations between population and development, development of techniques for utilizing demographic factors in the planning process and methods for dealing with interrelations between population, resources, environment and development. The Commission suggested that all appropriate means be employed to ensure that the findings of research studies reach policy makers and the public.

102. The Commission stressed the importance of continued analysis of the socio-economic implications of the ageing of populations in both developed and developing countries. The Commission also stressed that in its further work on population ageing, the Population Division should consider various alternative measures of the elderly population and its components.

103. The Commission recommended that, subject to the availability of resources, a database be prepared on experiences in integrating population issues into development planning. Such a database should include information on institutional arrangements, training, research and the use of demographic data, planning models, methodologies and software.

104. The Commission recommended that, subject to the availability of resources, microcomputer-based software for making population-related projections for development planning be prepared and disseminated widely. The Commission also endorsed the organization of a workshop on that topic.

105. Noting that the microcomputer-oriented database on population, resources, environment and development could be most useful in analysing interrelationships between those variables, the Commission endorsed the preparation of an updated version containing variables relating to resources and the environment.

106. The Commission noted the need to review the state of knowledge on relationships between population, environment and development, and expressed

approval of plans to organize an expert group meeting on that topic in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the German Foundation for International Development.

4. Monitoring, review and appraisal, coordination and dissemination of population information

107. The monitoring of world population trends and policies and review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action are discussed in chapter II.

108. With respect to activities in the area of dissemination of population information, the Population Commission was informed that the Population Division would continue: (a) to issue all recurrent and non-recurrent publications; (b) to improve dissemination by developing better distribution lists to permit targeting of the most appropriate audience for each publication; (c) to find a better balance in presentation to meet the needs of population professionals and also to reach the widest possible audiences; and (d) to increase output in computer-usable format, both in the form of databases and of software.

109. Concerning global POPIN, the Population Division would work together with UNFPA to formalize an agreement on the management of POPIN. A meeting of the POPIN Advisory Committee would be convened during the first half of 1991 and, contingent upon the availability of extrabudgetary resources, full-scale POPIN activities would be resumed during the second half of 1991. A key feature of the activities would be an even closer working relationship with the regional POPIN programmes.

5. Technical cooperation

110. The Commission considered the proposed programme of work of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development in the field of population for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/CN.9/1991/CRP.2), which was an elaboration of the activities to be carried out during the biennium 1992-1993 as stipulated in more general terms in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. Those activities included (a) support of technical cooperation projects in three main areas, namely, training, national research on population dynamics, and national population policy programmes and offices; and (b) analysis and evaluation of technical cooperation activities in population.

C. Activities of the regional commissions

111. The activities of the regional commissions were described in detail in working paper ESA/P/WP/118, which was made available to the Population Commission.

1. Economic Commission for Africa

112. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) informed the Commission about the emerging population issues in Africa. Stressing the variety of population dynamics characterizing Africa, he noted that member States in the continent had generally initiated or promoted population policies aimed at curbing population growth and at monitoring population movements. The difficulties in mastering problems related to population redistribution and other migration issues were underscored.

113. The Commission was informed that the ECA secretariat continued to implement its work programme on population, which included research, training, advisory services and information. As the awareness of member States regarding population problems increased, it was likely that more requests would be made for advisory services and assistance. The representative of ECA indicated that preparatory work for the next African population conference was under way. The conference would be held in 1992.

2. Economic Commission for Europe

114. The Commission was informed that the population programme for 1989-1990 of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) included four major activities: (a) promotion of fertility and family surveys; (b) collection, analysis and dissemination of information on population policies; (c) study of population ageing and its social and economic implications; and (d) analysis of the time use of women. Recently, a fifth activity relating to international migration was added to the programme.

115. With regard to the promotion of fertility surveys and family surveys, ECE was collaborating with a number of national demographic research centres. A core questionnaire for the surveys was being revised and, once adopted by participating countries, would be used to gather internationally comparable events and current status data on fertility, nuptiality and activity variables.

116. Aware of the significance being accorded by member countries to international migration, the ECE secretariat, in collaboration with UNFPA, was preparing an expert group meeting to review the main issues related to international migration in the major world regions. The meeting, which would take place at Geneva in July 1991, would provide a basis for initiating or strengthening policy-oriented research in international migration at the regional commissions.

3. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

117. The Commission was informed that, during the period under review, the population programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) consisted of training courses, applied research, information and regional advisory services. The training courses included two annual courses in population and development at the regional level, two annual courses in demographic analysis for development and several national courses and seminars in collaboration with national institutions.

118. The research programme included such subjects as methodological research in low-cost indirect methods for estimating infant mortality and its application to several countries, and studies on the ageing of population. With regard to information, ECLAC made progress in the development and application of computer packages such as REDATAM (Retrieval of Census Data for Small Areas) and PRODEM, a new package for sub-national projections. A review of management information systems for family-planning programmes currently applied in the region was also undertaken, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

119. Recurrent activities such as the publicaiton of Notas de Población, Boletín Demográfico and DOCPAL (bibliographical services) were continued. Also, several interdivisional activities were carried out within ECLAC, with a view to integrating population variables into general studies on development strategy, education and the environment.

4. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

120. The Commission was informed that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) continued to focus its work on three broad areas: technical assistance, research and information dissemination. Its regional advisers and professional staff provided technical assistance in, for example, the analysis of demographic and family-planning surveys, the integration of population concerns into development planning, and assisting developing countries in establishing and strengthening their population information centres and related information systems. It also assisted countries by organizing training courses, workshops and study tours.

121. To assist developing countries to evolve adequate strategies, policies and measures to overcome their various population problems, ESCAP conducted collaborative research on various issues, including demographic-economic interrelationships, the consequences of population change in Asia, urbanization and socio-economic development in the region, the accessibility of contraceptives and the means for improving management information systems in family planning. Because of the importance of population information, ESCAP continued to promote new and better techniques for handling, sharing and disseminating population information, especially through the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network. Two major means were used to disseminate information: publications, including bibliographic services, and meetings. Concerning the latter, population issues were discussed at the annual sessions of ESCAP, the biennial session of the Committee on Population and Social Development and at other meetings. In 1992, ESCAP and UNFPA would jointly sponsor the decennial Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, at Jakarta, with the Government of Indonesia providing all host-country facilities.

5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

122. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) undertook both recurrent and specific activities. Recurrent activities included rendering regional advisory services, the publication of the biannual ESCWA Population Bulletin, the maintenance of the

Population Reference Centre, the organization of meetings with didactic and promotional purposes, and the production of demographic and related socio-economic indicators, which were being updated every other year. ESCWA conducted an in-depth review and assessment of the methodology used for the production of the above-mentioned indicators. Regarding specific activities, ESCWA, among other things, carried out and published a study on levels, trends and socio-economic differentials of infant and child mortality in the region.

123. Owing to the present situation in the region, the programme of work for the biennium had not been completed. It was expected that in addition to undertaking recurrent activities, ESCWA would be involved in the analysis of population movements associated with the Gulf crisis. Those movements were not only substantial but also had social and economic consequences affecting, inter alia, individual and family welfare, employment and workers remittances. An understanding of population movements and their consequences would be an essential prerequisite for the formulation of national plans and policies for reconstruction and development in the region.

D. Requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations

124. The Commission noted with satisfaction that, in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/93, a report had been prepared on requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations.

125. As to requirements and training of population specialists at the national level, the Commission was informed that since the data required for a study had to come from the countries themselves, a short, structured questionnaire had been prepared and mailed to 41 countries (members of and observers to the Population Commission and some developing countries that had requested assistance from the United Nations in building local infrastructure). Out of 41 countries, only 21 had responded to the questionnaire.

126. Regarding the availability of population specialists currently working, the Commission took note of the fact that there was general dissatisfaction about the insufficient number of population specialists employed in the public and academic sectors in both the developed and developing countries studied.

127. With respect to vacancies, the Commission was informed that in countries that responded to the questionnaire, a total of 674 vacancies were identified, 301 in the public sector and 373 in the academic sector, thus indicating that there were 11 vacancies per 100 existing posts. It was also reported that a relatively higher proportion of vacancies was found in the developing countries (18 per cent of posts were vacant) than in the developed countries (3 per cent). The data also indicated a relatively higher proportion of vacancies in the academic sector (13 per cent) than in the public sector (10 per cent). The Commission was thus alerted to the possibly serious implications of those statistics, the most important of which was that the provision of new generations of population specialists and other professionals with some knowledge of population might be seriously limited, particularly in the group of developing countries where almost one third of the academic posts were reported vacant.

128. The Commission was informed that approximately 3,190 new population specialists would be required during the next five years, 51 per cent in the public sector and 49 per cent in the academic sector; of the total, 35 per cent would be required in the developed countries and 65 per cent in the developing countries.

129. Concerning the selection of population specialists from within the Organization, the Commission was informed that the filling of posts at the entry levels was primarily through either the internal competitive examination or the national competitive examination.

130. In regard to the recruitment and placement of technical cooperation expert personnel, the Commision noted with satisfaction that rules for technical advisory staff guaranteed a measure of autonomy, with levels of remuneration appropriate for recruitment of competent personnel. The Commission was informed that a special category of personnel recruited were the associate experts. There were currently close to 100 associate experts, of all specializations, serving throughout the less developed regions. Recently, such experts had also been assigned to Headquarters.

E. Agency support costs and the organization of technical assistance activities

131. At various points during the Commission's deliberations, reference was made to possible changes in the overall framework for United Nations technical cooperation activities in all fields and to a new agency support cost system. Such changes might follow from the implementation of General Assemby resolution 44/211 and decision 90/26 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme. The Commission was of the view that the new system should maintain the high quality of the services delivered by the United Nations system.

F. Action taken by the Commission

Work programme in the field of population

132. At the 450th meeting, on 4 March, the Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Abdel Salam El Banna (Egypt), introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.9/1991/L.5), entitled "Work programme in the field of population".

133. Following a statement by the representative of Bolivia, the Chairman proposed that operative paragraph 2 (b) (v) be amended by inserting the words "mortality, including maternal mortality", after the words "analysis of mortality: adult".

134. At the 451st meeting, on 7 March, following statements by the representatives of Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, it was proposed that a new subparagraph be added to operative paragraph 3, to read as follows:

"(c) Subject to the availability of funds, to conduct study of the needs of developing countries for skilled human resources in the population field and measures required to meet those needs".

135. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.9/1991/L.5, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter V

FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION, 1984

136. The Population Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 448th and 449th meetings, on 1 March 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Concise report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure (E/CN.9/1991/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on interrelationships between population and environment in rural areas of developing countries (E/CN.9/1991/6);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population (E/CN.9/1991/7);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance (E/CN.9/1991/8);

(e) Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the activities of the Fund (E/CN.9/1991/9);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (E/CN.9/1991/10);

(g) The parts of the reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions (E/1989/32 and E/1990/29), including the decisions, dealing with the United Nations Population Fund.

A. Activities of the United Nations Population Fund

137. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund introduced the report of the Executive Director of the Fund on the Fund's activities (E/CN.9/1991/9). The Fund had conducted a review and assessment of the world's accumulated population experience in the past two decades and had convened the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century. The Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations, adopted by the Forum, clarified key issues in the field of population, set targets for the foreseeable future and estimated resource needs. The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme took note of the unmet needs for population activities and urged all Governments, concerned international and regional organizations, financial institutions and non-governmental organizations to make every effort to reach the target of $9 billion by the year 2000. The report also highlighted the efforts of the Fund to mobilize resources for population matters, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 45/216, urging follow-up of the goals of the Amsterdam Declaration.

138. Within UNFPA, during the period under review, programme review and strategy development exercises were introduced in selected countries. That operational innovation gave emphasis to substantive analysis of country conditions and strategic programming. It had been designed to assist Governments to develop and strengthen a national population programme and strategy and to become more self-reliant in the formulation and implementation of population policies, as well as to assist the Government, UNFPA and other donors in delineating programmes for population assistance. Other UNFPA activities involved intensification of the Fund's evaluation activities and development of a comprehensive management information system.

139. The financial position of UNFPA had improved in recent years, with total income surpassing $363 million in 1988-1989 and being projected at $445 million for 1990-1991. Total expenditures were $203.5 million in 1989, with about $157.4 million for programme expenditures. The total number of authorized budget posts in UNFPA was 696 in 1990, comprising 169 Professional and 527 General Service staff. The proportion of women at the Professional level exceeded 39.5 per cent.

140. The programme of work of UNFPA continued to emphasize family planning, which took up 46.3 per cent of total allocations in 1989. Information, education and communication activities received 16.8 per cent; basic data collection, 10.9 per cent; population dynamics, 12.5 per cent; and women, population and development, 3.1 per cent. UNFPA resources for programmes on women, population and development totalled $5.9 million in 1989, up from $1.9 million in 1988. Other special areas of activity were youth, population, the ageing, HIV/AIDS prevention and population and the environment interrelationships.

B. Monitoring of multilateral population assistance

141. Complementing the report of the Executive Director of UNFPA was the report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance (E/CN.9/1991/8), which covered the period 1988-1989. According to the report, total international assistance for population in 1989 amounted to $740.8 million. The share of the United Nations system in that amount was $194.9 million, or about 32 per cent. Bilateral assistance made up $381.2 million, or 62 per cent, and private assistance and assistance from non-governmental organizations totalled $39.3 million, or 6 per cent. Those figures did not include World Bank credits, which amounted to about $125.4 million.

142. Within the United Nations system, UNFPA accounted for 75.2 per cent of funds for population activities in 1989. Among the 15 United Nations organizations engaged in population work, the total funds allocated by UNFPA to their activities amounted to 59.1 per cent of their combined budgets. Geographically, assistance to activities in Africa had been steadily increasing since 1986; the proportion of UNFPA programme funds to that region had risen from 26.4 per cent to 29.6 per cent. Support for activities in Asia and the Pacific had declined from 51.7 per cent in 1986 to 43.2 per cent in 1989. Latin America and the Caribbean had also received increasing proportion of funds (from 10.2 per cent to 15.7 per cent). The Middle East and

Mediterranean region had consistently received about 11 per cent of UNFPA resources.

143. In terms of substantive areas, UNFPA had spent the bulk of its funds in 1989 (about 44.9 per cent) on family-planning activities. Pursuant to the goals set out in the Amsterdam Declaration (to increase contraceptive prevalence in developing countries from 51 per cent to 56 per cent; to reduce infant mortality rates to at least below 50 per 1,000 live births; and to reduce maternal mortality by at least 50 per cent), the Fund encouraged official policies designed to achieve the goals for maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP), encouraged legislation, for instance by raising the age of marriage, provided incentives to contraceptive production and funded information, education and communication programmes.

144. In 1989-1990, UNFPA allocations to basic data collection and analysis had increased, especially in Asia, where the 1990 rounds of censuses had started. Considerable support was also given to the improvement of vital registration systems, the encouragement of survey capabilities and the updating of population databases. In the field of population dynamics, about 133 institution-building, training and research operations were supported by UNFPA. Another 107 operations were funded in countries seeking to formulate or adopt population policies. The dissemination of those policies and programmes was stressed in information, education and communication activities, which received considerable UNFPA assistance.

145. An important trend that had begun during the period under review was the increasing amount of funds earmarked for changing the preconditions leading to reduced fertility rather than direct investments in primarily fertility-control activities. In the late 1980s, multilateral assistance agencies had started to allocate additional funds to programmes improving the literacy of women, the education of girls, income-generating projects for women and efforts to enhance the greater participation of women in activities that affected their lives. A trend towards increased social investment - in health, social welfare and other sectors - was also observed. At the same time, support for programmes seeking to improve the condition of youth, the ageing and underserved and underprivileged groups had been increasing. All those efforts seemed to suggest that fertility decline was amenable to change, not through direct family-planning interventions alone but to more integrated solutions that directly linked population with developmental processes.

C. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of population

146. The report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population (E/CN.9/1991/7) presented an overview of the activities of the units and organizations of the United Nations system that carried out population activities during the period 1988-1989. The report presented information on recent changes in policies, mandates, objectives, organizational structure and planning, programming and budgeting procedures, as well as on resources, coordinating mechanisms and the proportion of resources devoted to population activities during the period under consideration. Following a suggestion made by the Commission at its twenty-fifth session, the Population Division prepared a working paper

entitled "Population-related activities of the units and organizations of the United Nations system that do not report to the Population Commission on an official basis" (ESA/P/WP.118).

1. International Labour Organisation

147. The International Labour Organisation prepared a written statement, which was made available to the Population Commission in working paper ESA/P/WP.118. In addition, a note on the population activities of ILO was circulated by the representative of ILO.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

148. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations informed the Commission that FAO was expanding its activities related to population matters.

149. High priority had been given to efforts to assist Governments in incorporating demographic variables into agricultural and rural development planning. A major activity in that area was the work of the FAO Policy Division in the application of Computer Assisted Population Planning in Agriculture (CAPPA), a software package designed to assist and train agricultural planners.

150. The Commission was informed that FAO was attaching great importance to supporting national population and rural development policies, mainly by incorporating population information, education and communication components into regular programme activities.

151. Action-oriented research had been undertaken to improve the capacity of FAO to provide policy-related advice to countries in population and rural development matters. Research on relationships between population and the environment in the context of sustainable agricultural and rural development had been given high priority.

3. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

152. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization informed the Commission that population issues were commanding increasing priority in the work programmes of the organization. Thus, in the years to come, UNESCO would make use of its mandate, accumulated knowledge and expertise (a) to make an active contribution to the analysis of population issues and to the identification of the policy consequences of such analysis; (b) to provide technical assistance to Governments in their efforts to gain access to information on population issues and use it in the formulation of development policies; and (c) to contribute to the diffusion of knowledge on population issues so that individuals, couples and social groups might use it in their efforts to overcome poverty and improve their well-being.

153. UNESCO was in the process of organizing the International Congress on Population, Education and Development, to be held in 1992. The Congress, organized in collaboration with UNFPA, would prepare both a world strategy and a framework for action in the field of population education for the beginning of the twenty-first century, which would be submitted to the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-seventh session, to be held in 1993. Those documents would be submitted by UNESCO and UNFPA to the 1994 International Meeting on Population. Their role in raising awareness of the contribution of education to the fields of population and development was stressed.

4. World Health Organization

154. The representative of the World Health Organization noted that WHO had developed a broad concept of reproductive health, including social, cultural, economic, technological and environmental aspects. Increased emphasis was placed on safe motherhood, care of the newborn, women's health and development, adolescent health, development of family-planning technology and improving the quality of maternal and family-planning services. In the area of newborn care, WHO had initiated the development of appropriate technologies to treat and prevent complications.

155. Through the safe motherhood programme, WHO had supported a large number of epidemiological studies of maternal mortality and morbidity, as well as operational research to promote safe motherhood.

156. In the area of adolescent health, WHO supported many studies to collect data on the sexual behaviour of young people, sexually transmitted diseases, fertility, age-specific abortion rates and maternal mortality. Young people had participated in those studies and in the development of strategies and action to solve problems and meet needs. Methods had been developed and applied for systematic intergovernmental planning.

157. In view of the increasing concern about population growth, the Executive Board of WHO had adopted a resolution in 1989 to strengthen and promote family planning in primary health care.

158. Recently, WHO had enlarged its Steering Committee on Women, Health and Development to include all WHO programme areas. That new development would further strengthen the variety of activities intended to strengthen women's leadership in health development.

D. Work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action

159. The report of the Secretary-General on the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (E/CN.9/1991/10) contained the third review of activities carried out by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The review, which covered the period 1988-1989, included activities carried out by nine intergovernmental and 83 non-governmental organizations. It provided basic information on the organizations, such as geographical coverage and location of their headquarters, modalities of participation in the work of the

United Nations, their status in relation to the Economic and Social Council, personnel resources, the amount and origin of their financial resources, and the proportion of resources devoted to population activities during the period under consideration. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the report, which it found useful.

160. The representative of The Population Council reported that the Council had ongoing operations in three areas: (a) biomedical research in the field of human reproduction to develop and improve contraceptive methods; (b) social and health science research into the causes of population change, its societal implications and appropriate policy responses; and (c) the provision of technical assistance to family planning and other population-related programmes in the developing world. In the area of research on human reproduction, in 1990 the Food and Drug Administration of the United States of America approved the use of the new contraceptive NORPLANT among American women. The Council had performed a unique role in taking that product from the research and development stages to its introduction as an approved method of contraception. Mention was made of a study on the demographic impact of family-planning programmes, in which it was concluded that the world population in 1990 would have been 412 million larger had there been no family-planning programmes. Lastly, the Council's long standing concern for the status of women was stressed.

161. The representative of Population Communications International stressed the importance of the partnership between the community of non-governmental organizations, national Governments and the United Nations. The monthly publication of that organization, International Dateline, had contributed to that partnership by providing timely information on the activities of non-governmental organizations world wide.

162. The representative of the International Planned Parenthood Federation noted that the Federation encompassed voluntary organizations in 134 countries, all devoted to ensuring that individuals and couples had the knowledge and means to determine the number and spacing of their children. Thus, the 1991-1993 Three-Year Plan of the Federation had established as priorities advocating family planning as a basic human right, promoting or improving the delivery of family-planning services, improving the status of women, providing information and family-planning services to young people, increasing the knowledge and practice of contraception among men, and developing the human resources necessary to provide adequate family-planning services. In carrying out those activities, IPPF had cooperated with both UNFPA and WHO. Given its flexibility and adaptability, the Federation had been able to provide the necessary support to newly created family-planning associations in Eastern European countries.

163. The representative of Turkey referred to the activities undertaken by the Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation to improve maternal and child health in Turkey. With the support of the Foundation, 28 health and family-planning clinics had been opened in different areas of the country. The Foundation was also involved in training necessary personnel and in raising awareness about population issues among both policy makers and the general public. A family-planning campaign carried out in 1990 was reported to have been successful. Another one was planned for 1991.

164. The representative of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population noted the close collaboration that had traditionally existed between the Union and the Population Division of the Secretariat. With regard to the current activities of the Union, scientific committees or working groups were reported to be active in such fields as the comparative analysis of fertility; adult mortality; population and health; economic demography; historical demography; anthropological demography; population and the environment; the status of women and population dynamics; and the use of microcomputers in the analysis of incomplete or deficient data. It was reported that three major conferences would be organized by the Union during the period 1990-1993: the European Conference (October 1991), the Conference on the Peopling of the Americas (May 1992) and the twenty-second General Conference of the Union (1993). The Union's publication programme continued to expand. Conference proceedings had been published, as had the IUSSP Newsletter/Bulletin de liaison and a reprint series. The Union's collaboration with Oxford University Press had led to the publication of an international series in demography dealing with the latest scientific advances in the field, and a new series aimed at a wider audience would begin soon. Lastly, the Union continued to support the expansion of research capabilities in developing countries, particularly in Africa, through a series of seminars and other training activities.

165. The representative of the Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography informed the Commission that seven research projects were at various stages of implementation and two were planned to start soon. Among the former, two dealt with various aspects of international migration (its impact on third world development and on receiving countries, respectively), another focused on the social differentials of mortality in developed countries, a fourth dealt with the economic and social aspects of population ageing, a fifth related to the integration of population in development planning, a sixth focused on urbanization and population distribution and the last dealt with the effects of family planning on demographic trends. Projects on population and the environment and on the effects of social organizations on the evolution of mortality were about to start. In addition to promoting those research activities, CICRED continued to coordinate the research carried out by some 350 centres world-wide. In that connection, a regional inquiry on the research capabilities of the various centres was being undertaken. The inquiry would also try to ascertain the degree to which research findings were being used to inform policy makers. Lastly, CICRED continued to publish the Review of Population Reviews and had embarked on producing the third edition of the POPIN Thesaurus: Population Multilingual Thesaurus.

E. Population and the environment

166. At its twenty-fifth session, the Commission had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on population and the environment. The report of the Secretary-General, prepared in response to that request (E/CN.9/1991/6), provided an overview of recent research findings on the impact of rapid population growth on the state of the environment in the rural areas of selected developing countries. Rural areas were selected for study because it was recognized that a majority of the population of developing

countries resided in those areas and that the impact of population variables on the environment might be more direct in rural areas.

167. The Commission was informed that, thus far, desertification and soil erosion had not had such an adverse effect on food production that average food consumption world wide had dropped. But the population of certain regions had suffered profoundly from malnutrition owing to the degradation of soils. In developing countries critical ecological zones could be found, among other places, along the margins of tropical rain forests, along the edges of deserts and in long-settled, densely populated regions. The interaction of demographic and environmental dynamics, which was one of the factors determining the pace of environmental degradation in those zones, was described in the report.

Chapter VI

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

168. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 450th meeting, on 4 March 1991. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session, together with a list of requested documentation (E/CN.9/1991/L.4).

169. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for its twenty-seventh session (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision).

Chapter VII

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

170. At its 450th and 451st meetings, on 4 and 7 March 1991, the Commission adopted the draft report on its twenty-sixth session (E/CN.9/1991/L.3 and Add.1-7), as amended during the discussion.

Chapter VIII

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

171. The Population Commission held its twenty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters from 27 February to 7 March 1991. The Commission held 8 meetings (444th to 451st).

172. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs.

173. Introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, the Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and the Director of the Population Division.

B. Attendance

174. The session was attended by 26 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for one non-member State also attended. Representatives of specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

175. At its 444th and 445th meetings, on 27 February, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Charlotte Hoehn (Germany)

Vice-Chairmen: René Pereira Morato (Bolivia)
Abdel Salam El Banna (Egypt)
Shigemi Kono (Japan)

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Jerzy Z. Holzer (Poland)

D. Agenda

176. At its 444th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.9/1991/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974:

   (a) General debate on national experience in population matters;

   (b) Monitoring of population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure.

4. The 1994 international meeting on population.

5. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance and implementation;

   (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993.

6. Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984.

7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session.

E. Consultation with non-governmental organizations

177. In accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements in connection with agenda item 6 (Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984):

Category I: International Planned Parenthood Federation

Category II: International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, The Population Council

Roster: Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography, Population Communications International

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members

Bangladesh: M. Mohsin, Iftekhar A. Chowdhury, Mahbub Kabir, Liaquat Ali Choudhury, Ahmed Akhtaruzzaman

Belgium: R. Cliquet, H. Gérard

Bolivia: René Pereira Morato, Pablo Ossio Bustillos

Botswana: P. E. Legwaila, S. O. Outlule

Brazil: Mauro Sergio Couto, Regis Arslanian, Demétrio Carvalho

China: Chang Chongxuan, Wu Changping, Zhao Zhipei, Zhang Yang

Colombia: Ciro Martínez, Hernando Clavijo

Egypt: Abdel Salam El Banna, Somaya Saad

France: Léon Tabah, Frédéric Wormser, Michel Tantot

Germany: Charlotte Hoehn, Ursula Schäfer-Preuss

Iran (Islamic Republic of): Majid Jamshidi, Bozorgmehr Ziaran, Mahmoud Barimani

Iraq: Qasim A. Shakir, Jabir H. Ali

Japan: Shigemi Kono, Naoto Nikai, Takayuki Kitagawa

Mexico: José Luis Palma Cabrera, Arturo Hernández Basave, Adriana Aguilera

Nigeria: I. A. Gambari, K. O. Oligemeka, A. L. Sidi

Panama: Margarita Aquino

Poland: Jerzy Z. Holzer, Ryszard Rysinski, Wojciech Ponikiewski

Rwanda: Chaste Abimana

Sweden: Ulla-Britt Lithell, Rolf Andréen, Lennarth Hjelmaker, Klas Molin

Togo: Kampatibe Nagbandja

Turkey: Fikret Uçcan, Ugur Aytaç, Yalçin Tuncer, Cemil Ergene, Ergül Tunçbilek, Tuncer Kocaman, Selim Yenel

Uganda: Joseph Atiku

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: Irina V. Haynatskaya, Sergiy V. Kulyk

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: A. A. Isupov, O. G. Pavlov, Y. V. Oksamitniy

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: J. Craig, P. Tissot

United States of America: Vincent P. Barabba, Nancy O'Neal Carter, Bruce Andrus, Richard Cornelius, John V. Hurley, Thomas McDevitt, C. Steven McGann

Zambia: P. D. Zuze, A. M. Muchanga

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Israel, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe

Non-member State represented by an observer

Holy See

United Nations Secretariat

Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (Population Division and Statistical Office), Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (Population Branch), Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund, World Food Council

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank

Intergovernmental organization

Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Organization of American States

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Planned Parenthood Federation

Category II: International Federation for Home Economics, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, The Population Council, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

Roster: Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography, Population Communications International

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/1989/32	6	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its organizational session for 1989, the special session and the thirty-sixth session
E/1990/29	6	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its organizational meeting for 1990, the special session and the thirty-seventh session
E/1991/5	4	Preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.9/1991/2	3 (b) and 6	Concise report on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/3	5 (a)	Progress of work in the field of population, 1989-1990: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/3/Add.1	5 (a)	Progress of work in the field of population, 1989-1990: technical cooperation activities in population of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/4	5 (b)	Proposed programme of work in the field of population for the biennium 1992-1993: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/5	5 (a)	Requirements for population specialists in national institutions: report of the Secretary-General

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.9/1991/6	6	Interrelationships between population and environment in rural areas of developing countries: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/7	6	Activities of the United Nations system in the field of population: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/8	6	Monitoring of multilateral population assistance: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/9	6	Activities of the United Nations Population Fund: report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund
E/CN.9/1991/10	6	Work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/CRP.1	5 (b)	Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993: population (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs): note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/CRP.2	5 (b)	Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993: technical cooperation in population (Department of Technical Cooperation for Development): note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.9/1991/L.1	2	Organization of the work of the session: note of the Secretariat
E/CN.9/1991/L.2	2	State of preparation of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.9/1991/L.3 and Add.1-7	7	Draft report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session
E/CN.9/1991/L.4	7	Draft provisonal agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission
E/CN.9/1991/L.5	5	Egypt: draft resolution
ESA/P/WP.111	5	Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on International Migration Policies and the Status of Female Migrants, San Miniato, Italy, 27-30 March 1990
ESA/P/WP.112	5	Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Policies in Mega-cities, Tokyo, 22-26 October 1990
ESA/P/WP.113	5	Recommendations of the International Conference on the Ageing Family, Kitakyushu, Japan, 15-19 October 1990
ESA/P/WP.114	3	World Population Monitoring, 1991 (draft)
ESA/P/WP.115	5	Population Information Network (POPIN): recommendations of the Coordinating Committee at its meeting, New York, 11-14 June 1990
ESA/P/WP.116	5	The global Population Information Network (POPIN): historical perspective and recommendations for the future: report of a consultant
ESA/P/WP.117	5	Recommendations of the Symposium on Integrating Population Variables into Development Planning, Riga, USSR, 4-8 December 1989
ESA/P/WP.118	5, 6	Population-related activities of units and organizations of the United Nations system not reporting to the Population Commission on an official basis.

كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة

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